

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The final Office Action of December 17, 2003 has been received and contents carefully reviewed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-12 and 17.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 13. Claims 20-29 have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. Accordingly, claims 1-29 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13-16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicants' figures 8-9; rejected claims 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' figures 8-9. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 13 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 13 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "wherein each channel has a bottom surface comprised of said gate insulating film... wherein said sealant contacts said gate insulating film." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 and claims 14-19, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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